

Message Text

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SUBJECT: SOUTH-NORTH RED CROSS DELEGATES MEETING

1. KOREAN NATIONAL RED CROSS VICE PRESIDENT LEE BUM SUK GAVE POL COUNS FOLLOWING READ-OUT OF MAY 22 SOUTH-NORTH DELEGATES MEETING AT PANMUNJOM. AT MEETING, BOTH SIDES AGREED TO RAISE LEVEL OF CONTACTS TO WORKING LEVEL MEETINGS HEADED BY DEPUTY CHIEF DELEGATES TO RED CROSS PLENARY CONFERENCE (SEPTTEL).

2. LEE SAID THAT THERE WERE THREE MAJOR ELEMENTS IN POSITIONS OF TWO SIDES REGARDING RAISING CURRENT LEVEL OF REF CROSS WORKING MEETINGS:

A. LEVEL OF REPRESENTATION: THE SOUTH SIDE HAD PROPOSED THAT LEVEL OF REPRESENTATION BE RAISED TO CHIEF DELEGATES LEVEL. NORTH KOREANS WANTED DEPUTY CHIEF DELEGATEES TO MEET. THE ROK SIDE ACCEPTED NORTH KOREAN POSITION.

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B. TITLE OF CONFERENCE: NORTH WISHED TO CALL MEETING

"PRELIMINARY CONFERENCE" WHILE ROK SIDE WISHED TO DESCRIBE IT AS "INTERIM CONFERENCE." COMPROMISE WAS REACHED IN DESIGNATING MEETING AS A WORKING LEVEL CONFERENCE.

C. AGENDA: ROK SIDE PROPOSED THAT AGENDA FOR WORKING LEVEL MEETING CONSIST OF:

A. DISCUSSIONS ON RESUMPTION OF PLENARY CONFERENCE AND

B. DISCUSSION OF PLENARY CONFERENCE AGENDA.

NORTH KOREANS HAD WANTED WORKING LEVEL AGENDA TO CONSIST OF DISCUSSIONS ON RESUMPTION PLENARY CONFERENCE, "PRELIMINARY" DISCUSSION OF PLENARY CONFERENCE AGENDA AND DISCUSSION OF THE NORTH'S THREE CONDITIONS FOR RESUMPTION OF PLENARY CONFERENCE (REMOVAL OF ROK/CIA ROLE IN THE RED CROSS NEGOTIATIONS, CHANGE OF PLENARY CONFERENCE VENUE TO PYONGYANG AND CESSATION OF REPRESSION OF SOUTH KOREAN STUDENTS.) NORTH DID NOT PRESS FOR INCLUDING ITS THREE CONDITIONS AND AGENDA AS AGREED UPON HAS NO REFERENCE TO THE CONDITIONS. THIS IS THE NORTH KOREAN CONCESSION.

3. LEE SAID THAT BEFORE MAY 22, NORTH HAD GIVEN NO HINT THAT IT WOULD BE SOFTENING ITS POSITION. HOWEVER, ROK SIDE HAD BEEN PREPARED FOR SOME NORTH KOREAN INITIATIVE. LEE ATTRIBUTED NORTH KOREAN READINESS TO MOVE AHEAD ON RED CROSS NEGOTIATIONS AS SOLELY TACTICAL.

4. LEE SAID ROK SIDE DOES NOT EXPECT ANY SUBSTANTIVE PROGRESS IN WORKING LEVEL CONFERENCE BUT BELIEVES THAT NORTH KOREANS WERE READY TO COMPROMISE BECAUSE OF TWO RELATED FACTORS. FIRST OF ALL, IN LEE'S VIEW, NORTH KOREANS WANTED TO FORESTALL THE ICRC INITIATIVE REQUESTING CHIEF DELEGATES OF BOTH SIDES TO MEET IN GENEVA (SEOUL 2996). IT IS LEE'S VIEW THAT NORTH KOREANS WILL NOW USE AGREEMENT TO RAISE LEVEL OF PANMUNJOM WORKING LEVEL MEETINGS AS DEVICE TO POLITELY REJECT ICRC CALL FOR GENEVA MEETING. (LEE IS STILL READY TO GO TO GENEVA.) SECONDLY, LEE BELIEVES CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT NORTH KOREANS ARE NOW READY TO CREATE SOME IMPRESSION OF MOVEMENT IN RED CROSS NEGOTIATIONS TO AVOID BEING BLAMED BY ROKG INTERNATIONALLY FOR OBSTRUCTING TALKS. (LEE SAID BOTH SIDES ARE NOW LESS INTERESTED IN PLAYING ON ROK DOMESTIC SITUATION AND ARE BEGINNING MANEUVERING IN ANTICIPATION OF UNGA CONSIDERATION OF KOREAN QUESTION.)

5. LEE SAID THAT ROK SIDE IS ENCOURAGED BY NORTH KOREAN MOVE SINCE IT DEMONSTRATES THAT THE NORTH KOREANS CAN BE FORCED TO REACT TO INTERNATIONAL PRESSURES. HE SAID THAT IN NEXT MONTHS ROK SIDE WILL PRESS IN WORKING LEVEL CONFERENCE TO FORCE NORTH KOREANS TO ACCEPT PLENARY SESSION IN SEOUL. HE DID NOT EXPECT SUCCESS IN THIS BUT SAID THAT IT WOULD LAY GROUND FOR RENEWED ROKG REQUEST TO ICRC FOR ITS INTERVENTION AS WELL AS FOR POSSIBLE EXPLOITATION IN CONTEXT UN DEBATE ON KOREAN QUESTION.

6. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, ROK RED CROSS SPOKESMAN SAID HE DRAFTING LETTER TO ICRC FOR LEE REPORTING RESULTS OF MAY 22 MEETING. ACCORDING TO SPOKEMAN, LEE WILL STATE IN REPORT THAT AS MEETING DID NOT PRODUCE MUCH REAL PROGRESS THERE IS STILL NEED FOR CHIEF DELEGATES TO MEETINGS IN GENEVA.
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